

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2020

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, MP 96950

Greetings, Governor Torres,

This week the House Subcommittee on Elections held a hearing on barriers to voting in U.S. territories, which is an especially relevant concern during the coronavirus crisis.

As you know, we have provided \$1.2 million to the Commonwealth during this fiscal year to secure elections. Half of that money was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law 116-93, last December, the other half in the CARES Act, Public Law 116-136, in March. This is a considerable sum compared to the \$222,750 for the Commonwealth Election Commission in your FY20 appropriation.

Because of the attention Congress is now giving to the conduct of elections and in the interest of accountability for public funds, I write to ask that you provide a full accounting of how the \$1.2 million you have received has been spent.

Congress intended these monies be used to upgrade voting equipment, conduct election auditing activities, make on-line registration available, strengthen cyber-security, better track campaign financing, and implement vote-by-mail for all voters. Funds can also be used to increase voting sites to reduce crowding and keep in-person voters healthy.

With elections just three months away it would be good to know that you have taken action to ensure that voters in the Marianas have these protections in place to secure the integrity of their ballots and to stay well.

Thank you for attention to this request.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Marcia Fudge, Chair, Subcommittee on Elections
The Honorable Rodney Davis, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Elections